

November 1998
Vol 5 No 11

Phoenix
OS/2
Society

extended attributes

The magazine of the OS/2 community

\$2.95 US (\$3.50 Canada)



Indelible Blue — Outfitters For The Information Frontier



When setting out on an expedition, pioneers and explorers relied on their outfitters for trustworthy gear and advice. As your business advances, you need an outfitter for your technology needs. Computer gear — software or hardware — needs to be dependable, always providing the right solutions for the right need. Indelible Blue helps you chart the best path through the rocky terrain of computer technology.

- Hard-to-find Tools and Utilities
- IBM and Lotus software specialists
- Custom software operating system preloads
- Expert volume license administration

Impos/2 version 2.1 Now Available

Other new OS/2 releases and new low prices:

Galactic Civilizations Gold only	\$43.95	Trials of Battle <i>price slashed</i>	\$17
UG from GalCivII	\$30.95	<i>Close out pricing ...limited quantity, so hurry!</i>	
Object Desktop v2.0; August release	CALL	OS/2 Essentials v1.0 <i>just</i>	\$1
Avarice <i>price slashed</i>	\$35	Star Emperor <i>just</i>	\$1
		Galactic Civilizations II <i>just</i>	\$7

800-776-8284

www.indelible-blue.com



In this issue

Features

8 Connecting to a Windows 95 network

Need to hook your OS/2 system up to a Windows 95 peer-to-peer network? Brian Grawburg shows you step-by-step how to do it.

20 Professor Twiddle's College of Object Rexx Knowledge

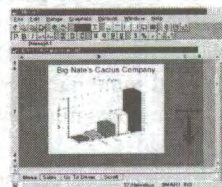
Professor Twiddle continues his lessons on using Object Rexx with a discussion of the Directory class.

18 Mesa 2 2.2: A full-fledged 3D spreadsheet

The first time Bill Morrow looked at Mesa 2, he wasn't impressed. Learn why he's changed his mind.

22 New and improved

A bunch of new programs have been released in the last month. See if any of them are useful to you.



Departments

2 Dots how it works

What's with the periods? What the heck is on the cover? Here's some remedies for your most burning questions.

3 Letters

Our members always have something to say.

4 The Failed Revenge of the Nerds

Esther explains why some OS/2 advocacy doesn't work, and the corporate attitude towards OS/2.

6 The Warp paradox

David Both has been comparing Windows NT to OS/2 in his last few columns. He seems to have reached a personal conclusion.

15 The key to shortcuts

Our beginner's column returns with some time saving tips.



Society news

11 Old friends

The last time Alan Zeichick visited the Society, he had to defend why *OS/2 Magazine* had no games page. This time, he'll give a broader look at the computer industry.

12 Coming events, meeting locations, and membership

Scheduled meetings and events, maps, directions, and the membership application.

13 I made a little list

Find out how to join the Society's listservs.

14 A Stardock is born

Brad Wardell visited the user group, not long back. Find out what he had to say.

Software

10 Hopkins FBI

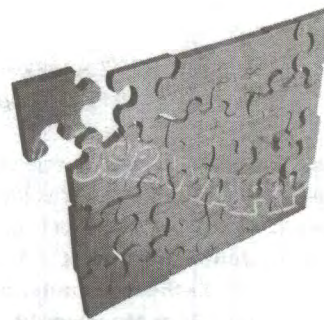
A new OS/2 game? Cool!

16 WebSpice 1.0

This HTML-based Web page design and graphics CD-ROM might help. But the price may not be right.

17 Web Organizer

One of our members explains why he's so fond of this OS/2 Internet utility.



extended attributes is the award winning monthly magazine of the Phoenix OS/2 Society, Inc.

This issue of *extended attributes* was produced using OS/2, DeScribe 5.0.6, WordPro, FrameMaker 5.1.1, Enhanced Editor 6.03, Photo>Graphics Pro, and ImpOS/2. Camera ready images were printed on a Lexmark Optra S 1255 at 1200 dpi. Printing was done by AdCraft Printing, Inc., Phoenix, Arizona.

Deadline for article submissions is the 5th of the month prior to issue. Send articles to editor@possi.org or the Society's mailing address. Send reviews to Craig Greenwood, reviews@possi.org. Send SIG news to Ernie Fisch, ernfisch@indirect.com. Send calendar updates to editor@possi.org; entries for any OS/2 user group are accepted.

For change of address, send an email to editor@possi.org or mail the form in the center of the magazine to the Phoenix OS/2 Society, Inc.

Mailed bulk rate from Phoenix, Arizona. Note that the US Post Office does not forward bulk rate mail! Approximate circulation of this issue: 650.

Copyright © 1998 by the Phoenix OS/2 Society, Inc. All rights reserved.

Dots how it works

by Bill Schindler, Editor-in-chief

.comment

First, I'd like to extend a welcome to all of the new members who joined during Warpstock. Welcome!

It's been almost three years since I last explained a few of the "oddities" you may notice in the magazine. The timing seems right to remedy that.

What's with the periods?

You've probably noticed that the gray words to the left of columns (like the ".comment" here) all start with a period. I've overheard some muttered conversations about those periods, but it seems most of you are either too polite or too wary to ask.

Well, it's no big secret. The name of the magazine is *extended attributes*, and from day one we decided to borrow OS/2's standard extended attribute names wherever we could. The standard extended attribute names all begin with a period, like ".COMMENT" and ".LONGNAME". Where OS/2 didn't supply a suitable EA name, we made one up. (Try as you might, it's not likely that you're going to find a ".TWO WARPED" EA on your system!)

What's that thing on the cover?

This month's cover holds no mysteries. But some months I'm sure that the membership thinks I'm giving them a kind of sneaky Rorschach ink blot test. (The month we had chile peppers on the cover generated more than a few concerned comments about prophylactics.)

Relax. We don't have a covert psycho-analyst on staff. The real problem is that we don't have a graphic artist on staff. So, I find myself dreaming up stuff for the cover at the last minute. And about one month out of four I end up playing "pin the graphic on the cover" just so that I can get the rest of the magazine printed on schedule.

Consider creating a graphic or two for me the next time you look at the cover and say to yourself, "What the *heck* is that supposed to be?"

Hey! There's a typo on page...

Gosh. Thanks. But in case you hadn't noticed, the magazine has already been printed and delivered, so it's going to be a little hard to fix that typo.

However, in the time-honored tradition of the Phoenix OS/2 Society, pointing out a problem or complaining about something means that you have officially stepped forward and volunteered. (Thanks! We could use another proof-reader or two.)

Finally

Please remember that this magazine is written, edited, and produced entirely by volunteers. Sometimes we miss the mark. We're pretty good about fixing problems, but sometimes it takes a while. Your patience is appreciated. (Your help is appreciated even more!)

Thanks! ☺

Phoenix OS/2 Society, Inc

The Phoenix OS/2 Society, Inc (POSSI) is an international organization of computer users with an interest in IBM's OS/2 operating system and related issues.

President **Dick Krueger** president@possi.org
Vice-President **Lee Baldwin** lbaldwin@primenet.com
Treasurer **Stan Hall** srhall@ibm.net
Secretary **Judy McDermott** bri@gt-online.com
Program chair **Esther Schindler** esther@bitranch.com
Board member **Sam MacDonald** samemac@ibm.net
Membership **Evelyn Hitch** hitch@ibm.net

Phoenix OS/2 Society, Inc
5515 N 7th St, Ste 5-133
Phoenix, AZ 85014-2585
Voice mail: 602-949-4341
Web: <http://www.possi.org>

Editor-in-chief **Bill Schindler** editor@possi.org
Asst editor **Esther Schindler** esther@bitranch.com
Copy editor **Susan Malling** susan@perfectniche.com
Reviews editor **Craig Greenwood** reviews@possi.org
SIG news editor **Ernie Fisch** ernfisch@indirect.com
Contributing editors **David Both, Joel Frey, Craig Greenwood, Judy McDermott, John Urbaniak, John Wubbel**
Cartoonist **Ron Boe** ronsueboe@sprintmail.com
Advertising manager **Marilyn Pizzo** mpizzo@ibm.net

Advertisers: Contact the Advertising Manager for an advertising rate sheet, insertion order, and information on advertising in *extended attributes*.

Letters



Letters to the editor should be sent to editor@possi.org or mailed to the Phoenix OS/2 Society. We reserve the right to edit all letters for content, readability, and length.

Pry OS/2 loose from IBM

I have read a number of Esther Schindler's articles in *extended attributes*, and also a few in *Sm@rt Reseller*.

I believe she is headed off on a dead end: IBM, as she has clearly pointed out repeatedly over the last several years, is determined to sabotage OS/2.

I do not know why IBM has chosen this course, but IBM has been very clear on this issue. In "The invented customer" (October 1998), and a number of other articles, she has highlighted the stupidity of IBM's marketing(?). But as she noted, the intent or purpose of this stupidity is precisely to sabotage the product.

Typically, corporations are organized around the "toady-up" principle, so that actions taken frequently have no connection to real-world events. Instead, many employees act to further their own advancement within the organization, and engage in whatever behaviour they believe serves that purpose. Very likely, and for whatever reason, Gerstner, et. al., have decided that trashing OS/2 serves their interests, and the bizarre antics she has observed on the marketing/sales end simply reflects the toady-up.

In this kind of situation, highlighting the self-destructive nature of IBM's actions only serves to re-inforce IBM's determination to proceed down its chosen path.

My suggestion, since she evidently has many good contacts within the IBM OS/2 organization, is to proceed down another track: find a way to pry OS/2 loose from IBM, in some sort of licensing/royalty scheme: get OS/2 source code and marketing rights into the hands of some people

who are motivated to make it successful, and out of the hands of those who are determined to see it fail.

The Networking division already licenses the APPN source code that runs on OS/2 and AIX. As you may know, this code is the core of IBM's SNA networking strategy. IBM has licensed it to several vendors—e.g. Cisco Systems most importantly—who are showing good success with it in their efforts to penetrate further into the MIS arena, where SNA and APPN are critical issues.

Perhaps there is a way to convince the Networking Division to license OS/2 source and marketing rights as well. Esther seems to be well-positioned to find out if this is a viable path, and who at IBM could make it happen.

Alex Perel

She will

I just joined POSSI at WarpStock 98, and I received the October 1998 issue of *extended attributes* on the spot. I have never written a "Letter to the editor" before, but I was moved to do same by Esther Schindler's article for the "on the bitstream" section.

Esther's article was so brilliant, I felt I just had to comment and offer a Terrabyte size kudo for the terrific, unique, most interesting, and on the money analysis of IBM's (non)-view of their customers I have ever had the good luck to read.

Tell Esther to keep those supercharged bytes coming.

Bruce Leiwant

International Web Page Awards gains momentum

press release

The International Web Page Awards (www.webpageawards.com), the first worldwide festival for Web page graphic artists and designers, is on a scroll, with more than 200 entries received to date, representing some of the top Web pages from the United States and around the world. Deadline for entries is November 30, 1998.

Billed as the "first worldwide showcase" for Web page artists and designers, The International Web Page Awards has established 30 categories including arts, entertainment, business, finance, education, health, news, sports, travel, personal Web pages, audio quality, graphic qualities, print/zines and video qualities.

To be eligible to participate in the International Web Page Awards, Web sites must be created and viewable on the Internet prior to the November 30 entry deadline. Entries may be submitted for consideration by Web page designers, advertising agencies, corporations, and individuals who want to showcase their creative achievements for interactive graphic design on the Internet. Entry fees are \$85.00 per Web site and per category. Entries may be submitted in more than one category with multiple entries requiring separate entry fees for each additional submission.

See the Web site for details on entering. ☺

The Failed Revenge of the Nerds

by Esther Schindler

In many articles I've written for *extended attributes*, I've referred to distinctions between types of computer user categories, such as "early adopter" and "mainstream." Perhaps you think this is a marketing distinction, useful for advertising purposes and little else. For instance, you might explain how the product works to a techie, and tell her mainstream husband what business benefits he could gain by buying it.

Yet these technology categories describe user behavior and attitudes, not just the way that people buy computers (or any other technology, from electric cars to cellular phones). And, because the committed OS/2 users have such an imbalance at one end of the spectrum, those assumptions have gotten in the way of OS/2's success. Because there's little empathy for the viewpoints of people in the other categories, a lot of well-meaning efforts have failed and enmity has resulted from miscommunication.

What were they, again?

First, let me review the categories, which I've pretty much adopted from "Crossing the Chasm," a book I recommended several years ago.

Early adopters are interested in what's new and cool, even if it doesn't work yet. They respond to the promise of something better, even when it's vaporware, and they aren't especially interested in practical matters. They will install alpha software. They haven't had a cover on their computer for so long that they'd be astonished if you asked where the cover is.

Technology enthusiasts are interested in what can be accomplished, though they have a more practical bent. They don't mind custom solutions. They'll install beta software and they're happy to write macros to get a program to do what it ought. The cover is on their computers, but the screws were lost long ago.

Early mainstream users want to use what's known and accepted. They're interested in "cool" only if it has a solid productivity benefit. They'll accept innovation if it comes in a familiar package or from a reputable source; references are essential. *Late mainstream* users prefer technology that's so accepted that it's commonplace, the "commodity" level of technology. *Laggards* use yesterday's technology, "because it still works," and they aren't interested in changing.

OS/2 users are, according to the research I reported on a few months ago (*extended attributes*, August 1998), solidly in the technology enthusiast category. Some consider that they're early mainstream, and an identifiable percentage label themselves early adopters, but for the most part

we're a pretty technical crowd. We like OS/2 because it gives us options, because we're interested in functionality over prettiness (even if we have to edit a few configuration files to access those features), and we're not afraid to mess with the system to get it to work right.

What we forget, all too often, is that *the majority of computer users aren't in that category*. The mainstream computer user is no longer an enthusiastic hobbyist; he's an office worker who uses what he's given and cares about the equipment only insofar as it helps him get his job done before 5:00pm. That's no more-or-less true of the large companies that use OS/2 than it is of corporations that adopted any other technologies except that OS/2 has developed a very real problem in market perception—one that IBM has done nothing to address. (From all indications, they have no intention to address it.)

The non-enthusiast's view

Most members of the Phoenix OS/2 Society are end-users who deliberately chose OS/2. We've stuck with it because we like it. That's not the case in most of the large companies who adopted OS/2 back in the 2.x days (or maybe even the 1.x days), and consider it a "legacy" system.

In most large companies, OS/2 is considered a dirty little corporate secret. They're not embarrassed about it, exactly, but the term comes close.

I taught OS/2 courses for Learning Tree for three years. A high percentage of my students were there to learn about OS/2 because they were put in charge of an OS/2 system—and they were about as thrilled to be given responsibility for the OS/2 servers as they'd be to be named Big Kahuna of the Supply Closet. (In some companies, being put in charge of OS/2 services was a polite suggestion to get your resume in order and start looking for something new, as OS/2 is considered a career dead-end.) I also spent three months as OS/2 Network Administrator for a utility company here in Phoenix, which is actively working to rid itself of its remaining OS/2 servers, in favor of NT.

Sure, in most such environments the OS/2 servers just keep going and going. From a technical point of view, that's an impressive benefit. I once spent half a morning looking for Server 14, because nobody even remembered where it was; when I found it, it had a thick layer of dust on the keyboard.

But not everything is judged by technical merits. From a corporate politics point of view, reliability is a bad thing. You create power by having more and more people report to you: all busy beavers, visibly saving the day, or at least doing something. The manager in charge of the two people

necessary to care for the OS/2 servers (doing an impression of the Maytag Repairman) has a lot less clout than someone with 25 NT technicians reporting to him. (This isn't specific to OS/2; the same issues apply to Macintosh and some Unix support staff.)

The OS/2 servers are typically old and dusty (sometimes literally). Often, they run on ancient hardware, simply because it still does the job. It's about as sexy as an old clunker of a refrigerator. Even if you're proud that your Ford Escort works great after 110,000 miles, with nothing more than an oil change, you'll still be a little embarrassed when your friends drive up in Porsches.

The technical OS/2 users, the early adopters and technology enthusiasts, are interested in what OS/2 can do, and they insist that "it's all that matters." However, technology does not matter more than any-

thing else. At best, technology is the servant of solutions; if this stuff doesn't enhance the quality of our lives, it isn't worth doing. (It's hard to convince a programmer of that at 4:00am, but it's still true.) At worst, technology becomes another pawn in someone's power trip. Somewhere in the middle, it has to be a product or service that allies can build a business and/or a career around. As with many other things, the real world incorporates a little of each.

In the companies that IBM claims to target, OS/2 is considered dusty old technology. It's no longer considered cool and with-it and the neatest project to be assigned to. Those sort of things have a direct impact on whether these products will be accepted by the corporations that IBM allegedly wants to sell to... and the fact that IBM does nothing to address that image is part of the company's failure. Mindshare

is a marketing concept, not a technology concept, but it's one that makes decision makers... well, make decisions.

That's one of the reasons that I think that it's important for IBM to release a new OS/2 client, not just a new server. Nobody believes that IBM's heart is in it on OS/2 anymore, and a new client release would intimate that they might actually care what customers say. I'm glad of the server, mind you, but I'd be gladder if they had a marketing message that was stronger than "we'll sell it to the people already using OS/2 who aren't willing or able to give it up." With that sort of attitude, an IBMer's idea of flattering a date must be, "For a fat girl, you don't sweat much." ☹

Put Yourself in Our Place... And See What a Training Environment Should Be.

Say good-bye to everyday hotel and meeting rooms and all the uncertainties that come with them. Say hello to Knowledge Development Center (KDC) and take a step up to the perfection you've always wanted and never had...until now.

KDC is Phoenix's only fully **configured, permanent, rentable** training facility. Each of our four rooms is also available for that special meeting when you need a memorable place to gather.

Call Walt Householder at 602-840-4750 and tell him you want to see what KDC can provide you. He would love to tell you all about it. For a tour, visit our WEB site at www.kdc-phoenix.com.



KDC KNOWLEDGE
DEVELOPMENT
CENTERS

Knowledge Development Center
2999 N 44th St. Suite 400
Phoenix, Arizona 85018-7246
602-840-4750

Windows95 is a registered trademark of Microsoft Corp.

The Warp paradox

by David Both

.two warped

I'm writing this column using DeScribe for OS/2 on a Warp Server. I have a Warp 4 system as my Web server, a Warp 4 Thinkpad for playing around and testing things, and a Warp 4 system for my wife to do email and word processing.

I also have a job which requires me to use Windows NT. To that end, my company provided me with an IBM ThinkPad 770 with loads of RAM and two 5 GB hard drives. One hard drive does indeed have Windows NT on it but the other has—surprise, surprise—Warp 4.

As soon as I leave work, the Warp 4 hard drive goes in, and the NT drive goes in the bag. And sometimes during the day at work the Warp 4 drive goes into the system so that I can do some things I just cannot do with NT. More accurately, I can do those things much easier and in a more friendly environment. For me at least, the Workplace Shell is a far better work environment than the NT desktop.

I find myself much more comfortable working in OS/2 than I do in any other operating environment, including Windows NT. This is a blessing and a curse.

At work I *must* use NT to be compatible with many of our internal processes. Being part of the team means that I have to use many tools which run only under Windows NT in order to function. Yet, I still find myself working in OS/2 whenever I can possibly do so.

After I had been using NT for some months, I decided to try to convert my OS/2 network to almost all NT, so that I might have more opportunity to learn it. About the same time that I made this (heretical to some) decision, I began experiencing the first of many crashes with NT. Trying to recover from them was not pretty. I discussed those travails in my last column (*A Warped Look at Windows NT*, September 1998) so I will not bore you with them again.

REXX

The REXX language is one of OS/2's greatest assets. It is provided for free with the operating system and is ideal as a scripting language, but it can also be used to write very advanced application programs.

One of the things I like best is its extensibility. With the addition of a couple DLLs from GammaTech (for less than \$100) and from IBM (free), I can write utilities that interface directly with the OS/2 LAN API set. I have used these at work to write programs which can modify all or selected user accounts or every alias in some manner. I wrote a program which adds and deletes new users, and provides all of the application and alias logon assignments required for each user based on the group to which he's assigned.

Attempting these same tasks in Windows NT requires purchasing additional software at a cost of thousands of dollars. NT has no scripting language nor an interface to the network API which provides this functionality.

Cluster F***

At work we are currently attempting to install a new NT "Enterprise," intended to replace the disparate agglomeration of computers that has been assembled to perform various server-like tasks. Most of these computers are desktop systems running a variety of operating systems, but they are predominantly Windows NT.

To overcome NT's inherent reliability problems, we are attempting to use clustering to provide a fail-over level of fault tolerance. Although many other companies are said to have accomplished this quite successfully, we have not been that fortunate.

I do not believe that the people trying to do this are at fault here. They are all intelligent, well educated in computers, highly experienced, and totally dedicated to the task. All of them (except me) are Windows NT bigots, and some are MCSEs. Part of the problem seems to be that all the software which we have been told does clustering, really does not do clustering according to the true definition of clustering, nor does it work the way it has been advertised.

Every time we seem to have clustering up and running, we begin to test at a new level and run into more problems. First automatic fail-over would not work. It took weeks to get that resolved. Then fail-back did not work. Again it took weeks to get that resolved. Now we are trying to get manual fail-over to work and it is taking weeks to get that resolved.

As a result of these major problems, I changed my mind and decided that OS/2 would remain my primary operating system.

There are things that I like about NT. There are things that I dislike about OS/2. But, as much as I have learned about NT and as similar as it is in many respects to OS/2, there is no denying the fact that OS/2 is by far the better, easier, and overall superior environment to work in.

I will continue to learn more about NT and Unix (which we also use at work). I will probably convert one or more of my computers to Unix and NT, or I will purchase a new system or two for that purpose.

OS/2 will always be my favorite operating system, however. ☺

IBM integrates transaction server technologies into WebSphere product family

press release

IBM announced the integration of its industry-leading transactional server technologies into one family of offerings. The WebSphere family, along with Lotus Domino, represents the industry's most complete range of Web application server environments that support business applications, from simple Web publishing through enterprise-scale transaction processing.

The expanded WebSphere family integrates the Web server, transaction processing, Web commerce and distributed component technologies of IBM's WebSphere Application Server, TXSeries, Net.Commerce, and Component Broker products. This lineup of transactional application servers makes e-business a reality, regardless of where companies are in that process. It provides an easy growth path as business needs change and companies' Web presence intensifies.

Common programming model

WebSphere and Lotus Domino are fundamental to IBM's overall Web strategy, which includes support for the industry-standard Enterprise JavaBeans (EJB) programming model. This unifying model in WebSphere and in other IBM application server offerings simplifies and reduces the cost of developing e-business applications.

IBM offers a broad range of application server technology including Lotus Domino, DB2 Universal Database, WebSphere, CICS, IMS, OS/390, and OS/400. These servers will share components with WebSphere and can be used as part of a connected enterprise solution that incorporates WebSphere. IBM San Francisco Business Components provide a collection of application development frameworks, components and partner solutions for the WebSphere application servers.

The servers are also unified by a common programming architecture based around EJB, common development tools around the IBM VisualAge family, and common systems management around Tivoli solutions. WebSphere's Web server capabilities, transaction processing, commerce functionality, common programming, and tools make it the most comprehensive and robust solution bringing value to e-business applications.

WebSphere Application Servers

The WebSphere application servers are at the center of the WebSphere product line, a comprehensive solution for developing and implementing networked applications. The

product line also includes WebSphere Performance Pack, Web facilities management software that supports rapid growth of high-volume Web sites, and WebSphere Studio, an integrated set of Web development tools.

WebSphere Application Servers are a tiered set of offerings, including:


WebSphere Application Server, Standard Edition provides companies with an open, multi-platform, standards-based, Web server deployment platform and Web site management tools. It offers customers a solution to deploy e-business Web sites across a range of operating systems platforms including AIX, Windows NT, Sun Solaris, OS/400, OS/390, and OS/2 Warp Server.

WebSphere Application Server, Advanced Edition expands on the capabilities of the Standard edition to provide enhanced support for scaling Web sites into secure, transactional e-business applications. The Advanced edition connects Web applications to existing databases and host-based transaction systems, and offers sophisticated tools that simplify deployment of distributed component-based applications.

WebSphere Application Server, Enterprise Edition enhances the Advanced edition and offers a robust solution that grows e-business applications into mission-critical enterprise environments, leveraging existing skills and IT systems. It combines TXSeries, IBM's world-class distributed transactional application environment, with the full distributed object and business process integration capabilities of Component Broker. All applications currently running on TXSeries or Component Broker will be fully supported by the Enterprise edition.

IBM Net.Commerce, which is IBM's strategic offering for electronic commerce applications, is part of the WebSphere family and assumes WebSphere branding in 1999. As a result, current Net.Commerce customers will benefit from functionality of the new WebSphere Application Server family.

Additional information

Additional information on the WebSphere product line may be found at www.software.ibm.com/websphere. WebSphere application servers include software developed by the Apache Group for use in the Apache HTTP Server Project, www.apache.org. Additional information about NetObjects tools can be found at www.netobjects.com. 

Connecting to a Windows 95 network

by Brian Crawburg

feature

So, you're the only one in the office that uses OS/2. Everybody else uses a peer-to-peer Windows 95 network. You'd like to use the color printer in Marketing, or to send and receive network messages—but you don't want to reboot and use Windows 95. How can you do this?

Recently, I set out to learn how to accomplish this task. It turns out to be relatively easy, but I never found step-by-step instructions. To save others the hassle of learning by trial-and-error, here are easy to follow steps.

Before you start, make sure you have a list of the Windows 95 Computer Names and Computer Descriptions; you'll need these during the OS/2 setup.

Getting connected on OS/2

If you haven't already installed TCP/IP and File and Print Client, you'll need to do so. As part of the installation you'll be asked for a User ID and Password. Make both of them easy to remember.

When OS/2 installs networking, it gives your computer a name: usually something like Client 405, or Client 363. That really tells everybody a lot! I'll show you how to change it later.

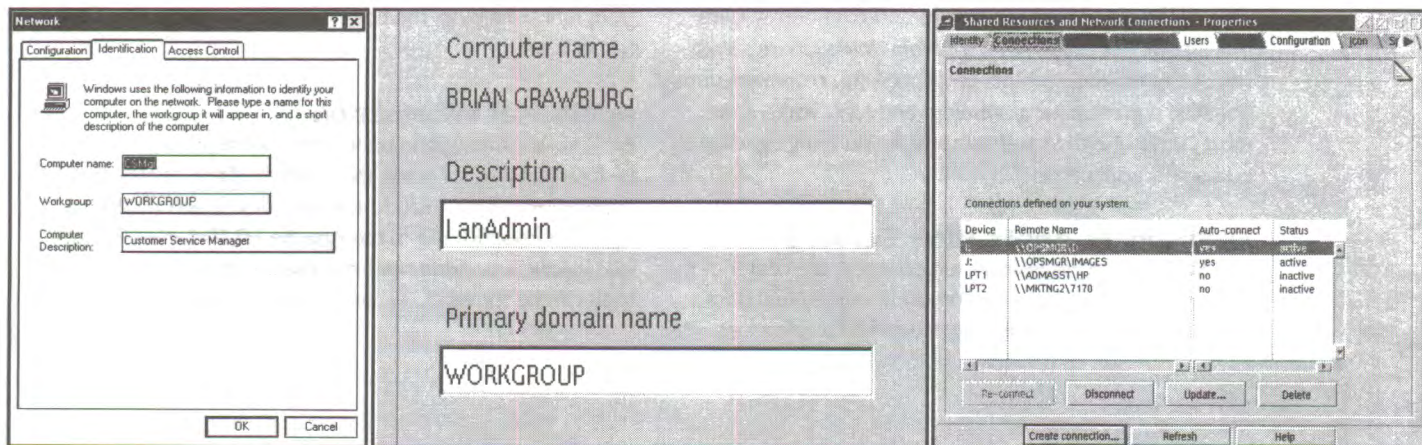
You'll also need to change the domain name. The OS/2 default is IBMPEERS. The Windows 95 default is WORKGROUP. Since you're connecting to the Windows 95 network you must use its domain name. Don't worry if you miss it here, since it can be changed later.

Once the networking components are installed, you'll have a folder named Connections on your desktop. If it does not include File and Print Client Resource Browser (where you'll find the list of other computers on the network) or Network Services, you must reinstall Networking.

Presuming everything is okay, here are the steps to follow.

1. Open Shared Resources and Network Connections, and select the Users tab. Figure 3 shows my completed user list.
2. Click on Create User, and fill in the blanks:
 - ☐ User ID: the Windows 95 Computer Name
 - ☐ Description: the Windows 95 Computer Description
 - ☐ I recommend that you make the Password optional, unless you have a specific reason to restrict access.
3. If you have a FAT drive to which others should have access, you can share the drive through the Shares tab. You need to define the type of access, either by a whole group or by individuals. If you're connecting to a large group and everybody can have the same type of access, it's easier to create that group rather than to assign the same rights one at a time. The Manage Access section is pretty straight forward.
4. To map connections to drives, directories, or printers on other PCs, you need to create them in the Create A Connection section. Before you can do so, you must be logged on to the network and the PC or printer you want to connect to must already have been set up to share. The Windows PC to which you want to connect is considered a server, and should appear in the drop down list.

The only reason to specifically map a networked drive is if you want it to appear as a drive on your system. You probably don't need to do so. If the remote drive has been set to share, you always have access to it and can access any data files you need without mapping. Mapping the drive only makes it more convenient to access, since it acts like an actual drive on your system. Of the eleven PCs I'm connected to, I have only two drives and three printers mapped.



Important Hint! Don't set any remote printers to Connect At Logon. If you do, when you print on your local printer, it will also print on the remote printer.

Making changes in IBMLAN.INI

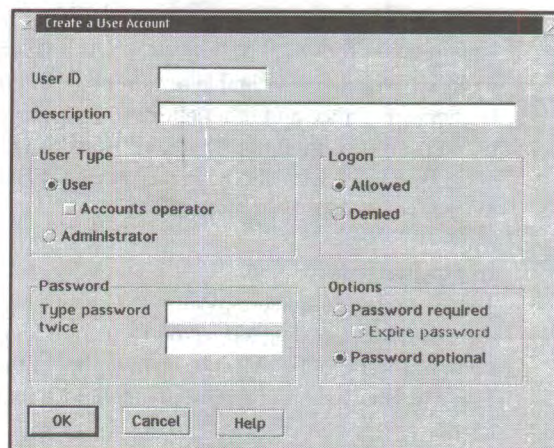
To change your OS/2 computer name from Client XXX, or the description of your computer, or the domain name edit IBMLAN.INI located in the x:\IBMLAN directory. Here is mine:

Computername = Brian Grawburg

Domain = WORKGROUP

SrvComment = LanAdmin

If you open Shared Resources.... and click the Identity tab, you'll see that these three complete the identification. Computername corresponds to the Windows 95 Computer Name and SrvComment is the Windows 95 Comment when you select Identity in the Windows Networking folder.

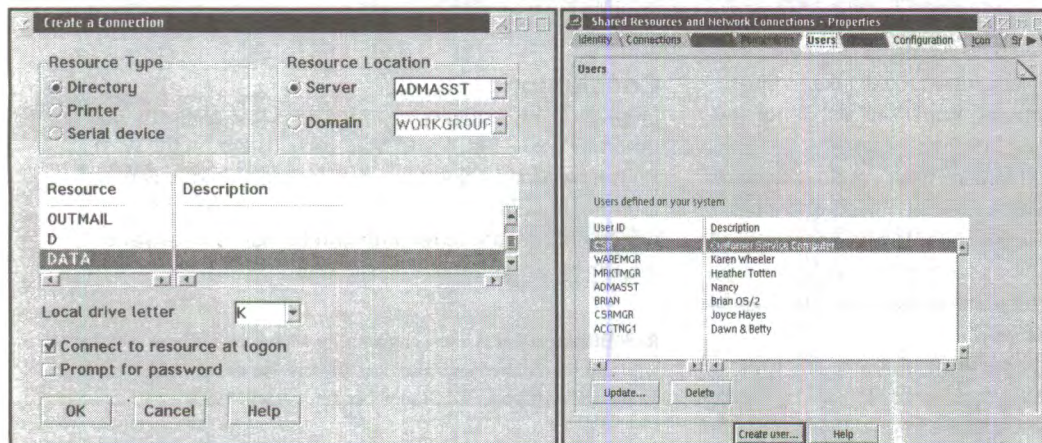
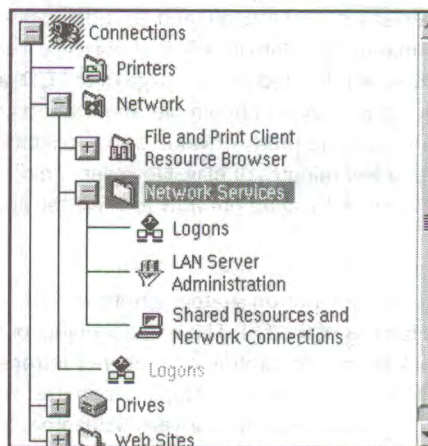


Network Messaging

To enable Windows messaging, you'll need to put WinPopUp.exe in the Startup folder. If someone wants to send you a message from Windows 95, they type in your computer name or the User ID that you used to log on to the network; this is the name you setup when you first installed TCP/IP.

To send a message to a remote PC, open Networking Messaging, select New, and type the message. You'll note that the Send button is grayed until you have something typed in the message area. Select the person(s) to whom you want to send the message from the List Users, click Send To, and exit. If you add additional Windows or OS/2 PCs to the network, you must also add them to your list of users through Shared Resources.

You probably want to configure Networking Messaging to automatically popup when you receive a message. You should do the same in Windows PopUp. ☺



Brian Grawburg is LAN Administrator for a furniture accessories importer/manufacturer. He can be reached at grawburg@bbnp.com.

Hopkins FBI

by Rick Blankenbaker

review

PolyEx Software's Hopkins FBI is a rarity among recent software releases for OS/2: it's a game. Some time ago, this wouldn't have been a notable occurrence, but IBM's "anti-kitchentop" stance and other efforts to discourage OS/2 home users took their toll. That said, Hopkins FBI is a fine effort by PolyEx, who also have the previous OS/2 release "Vigilance on Talos V" to their credit.

Installation

There's no real installation. With the Hopkins FBI CD in the drive, you just drag (copy) the Hopkins folder from an open CD-ROM drive object to an open hard drive object. That's it. The CD must be present in the drive for the game to run.

Hopkins is only for OS/2 Warp 4; a DART-compatible soundcard and DIVE-compatible video card are also requirements. I had no problems with my Matrox Millennium (albeit with EnDIVE off) and Soundblaster 16.

The manual for Hopkins FBI is about as sparse as the installation; it is located on one page of the CD jacket. Fortunately, game play is fairly simple; most aspects of the game interface are pretty obvious, and you'll pick up the rest after a few minutes of play. However, it did take me several minutes to figure out how to leave the apartment.

Play

Hopkins is a first-person strategy game; you are Special Agent Hopkins of the FBI. The primary object of the game is to track down and capture a number of terrorists led by Bernie Berckson, a longtime Hopkins nemesis. You are assisted by fellow agent (and lover?) Samantha. In the course of the game, you travel across multiple locations, continents, and even worlds.

The variations in game play that this introduces is a major strength of the game; because of the widely varying

scenery, the game never gets old, which it otherwise could do, especially considering the many hours that it will take to finish. Just how many, I can't say, as I'm not anywhere near finishing it myself!

Agent Hopkins must continually be on the lookout for useful objects and clues.

These items are context-sensitive; as the mouse is moved over an object, action options such as "Open," "Pick up," "Search" are available. The items you pick up are available in the inventory for later use.

A neat feature of the game is the ability to talk to or query other characters. Although Agent Hopkins' questions and replies are canned (you choose from a finite number of

choices), it adds another dimension

to the game. I did note a peculiarity though; sometimes Agent Hopkins' Clint-Eastwood-like voice didn't match my selected choice. In such cases, choosing another response elicited the correct verbiage.

Sights and Sounds

The artwork of Hopkins FBI is a primary draw of this game. It is done in a high-quality comic-book style that is in strong contrast to the generally low-resolution 3D shooter type of game which seems to be the rage in the Windows world.

On the other hand, the animation in Hopkins is nothing to make your Wombat-using friends jealous. It appears to be sequenced, not rendered. Think of a big animated GIF. Besides, Hopkins is a strategy game; for this, the animation is quite acceptable.

The good news is that you don't need the latest Pentium II and 3D accelerator to play Hopkins at an acceptable speed. Although I couldn't find any mention of minimum system requirements on PolyEx's Web site, the game performed satisfactorily on my K6-200 system.

Hopkins FBI is definitely an R-rated game. Quite a few folks get killed, and often very graphically. I would really have appreciated a parent-passworded switch to allow violent scenes to be skipped; I don't think the game flow would have been unduly affected. I did not allow my younger children (7-12 yrs old) to play the game.

Hopkins FBI has a very listenable instrumental music track which—to my highly untrained ears—seems to span the range from light elevator music to fusion jazz. There's no heavy metal here—or if there is, I've yet to find it. The music varies during the game to fit the particular locale. The music can be turned off if desired.

Conclusion

Hopkins FBI is a quality effort for the OS/2 platform (and others as well—BeOS and Mac versions are on the way). Polyex has done a good job developing a unique game of amazing breadth. Graphic violence notwithstanding, I would not hesitate to recommend this game to anyone looking for an in-depth diversion. ☺

Rick Blankenbaker is a test engineer for Motorola. He lives with his wife and six children near Harvard, Illinois. He has used OS/2 since 1994 and has been a POSSI member since April, 1997.



Hopkins FBI \$49.95

PolyEx Software
411 Annex Ave #C6
Nashville TN 37209
Phone: 615-356-5837
Fax: 615-352-5432
www.polyex.com

Old friends

by Esther Schindler

The last several Phoenix OS/2 Society meetings have focused primarily on product-related issues. It's time to think about the "Society" in our name again. And we'll do just that at the November general meeting, held on Tuesday, November 10, at 7:00pm.

Come talk with Alan Zeichick, founding editor of *OS/2 Magazine*, and long an OS/2 advocate within the computer press. Alan will talk about his experiences with OS/2 and with *OS/2 Magazine*, the reactions of many companies to OS/2 Warp Server, and provide his own "spin" on how to interpret the actions of IBM, Microsoft, and the computer press. Don't expect to sit through a formal presentation. Instead, he's inviting you to participate in a dialog about the state of the computer industry.

Although Alan played with OS/2 since version 1.3, his serious involvement began when he installed OS/2 2.1—and thought, "Hey, this is great!" He persuaded Miller Freeman Inc., which published *OS/2 Developer* under license from IBM, to launch *OS/2 Magazine* as an independent maga-

zine for consumers and business users of the operating system. From December 1993 until January 1997, Miller Freeman published *OS/2 Magazine* in an increasingly difficult financial environment, until it became no longer viable. After the demise of the magazine, Alan stayed with Miller Freeman until only a few months ago, as editor-in-chief of *Network Magazine*. Today, he's an independent technology analyst and writer, and has founded his own company, Camden Associates.

When & where

The meeting is held at the Mountain Preserve Reception Center, 1421 East Dunlap. Things officially get underway at 7:00pm, but feel free to show up early. At 6:30pm is the Random Access session, where you can get advice from other OS/2 users about technical topics, products worth purchasing, or just about anything else.

Afterwards, of course, we'll adjourn to the "after-meeting meeting" at Coyote Springs Brewpub, where some of the real stories tend to come out!

If you're among the membership who lives far away from Phoenix, note that this meeting is the Tuesday before Comdex begins in Las Vegas. If you're considering flying to the largest computing conference in the country—alas, not yet a Phoenix OS/2 Society event—perhaps you can arrange your travel schedule to stop in Phoenix on the way? ☺

what

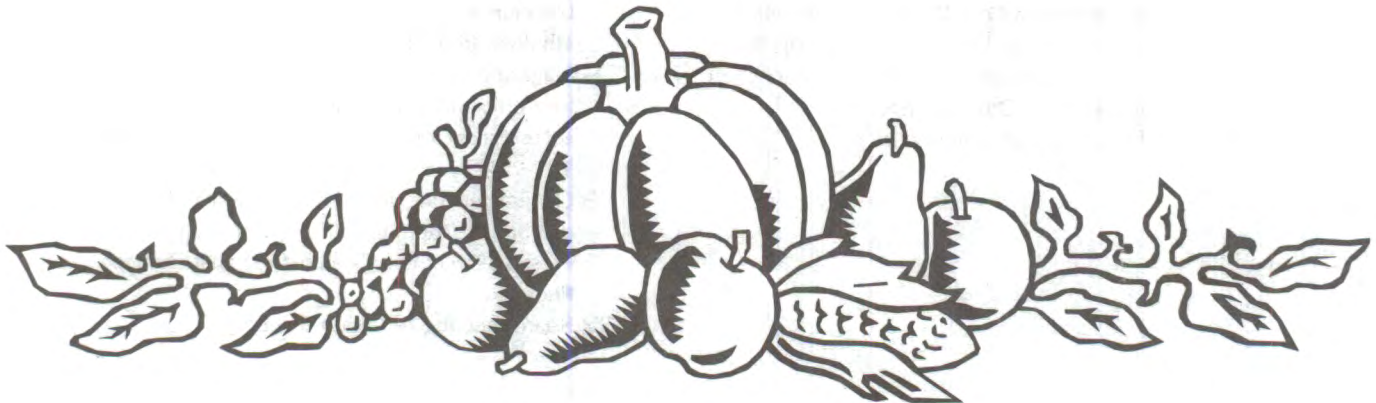
- ▶ Alan Zeichick discussing OS/2 in a larger computing context

where

- ▶ Mtn Preserve Reception Center
1431 E Dunlap
Phoenix, Arizona

when

- ▶ Tuesday, November 10, 1998
- ▶ 6:30pm: Q&A session
- ▶ 7:00pm: Regular meeting



Coming events

A list of events scheduled by the Phoenix OS/2 Society and other OS/2 user groups.

.history

November 1998

- 3** net.sig (Internet SIG). Meeting is 6:00pm to 8:00pm.

Coordinator Mike Briggs.

Location: KDC, 2999 N 44th St, 4th floor, Phoenix.

- 5** Magazine submission deadline

for December issue. Articles

should be sent to editor@possi.org. For other arrangements, call 602-585-5852.

- 10** General meeting; Alan Zeichick, talking about OS/2 in a larger computing context. Meeting is 7:00pm to 9:00pm. Q&A session is 6:30pm to 7:00pm. Location: Mountain Preserve Reception Center, 1431 East Dunlap, Phoenix.

- 16** Comdex, through November 20. Las Vegas, NV.

- 28** Board meeting and magazine prep. Meeting is 10:00am to 1:00pm. Eat a brunch, learn about the inner workings of the Society, and help get *extended attributes* ready to mail. Location: Bill and Esther Schindler's house in north Scottsdale, 9355 E Mark Lane. Call 585-5852 or send email to esther@bitranch.com for directions. Remember to bring Thanksgiving leftovers to share, too.

November						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	7	8	9	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16	17	18
	19	20	21	22	23	24
	25	26	27	28	29	30

December 1998

- 1** net.sig (Internet SIG). Meeting is 6:00pm to 8:00pm.

Coordinator Mike Briggs.

Location: KDC, 2999 N 44th St, 4th floor, Phoenix.

- 5** Magazine submission deadline

for January issue. Articles should

be sent to editor@possi.org. For other arrangements, call 602-585-5852.

- 8** General meeting; tentative: IBM's Steven King showing the next version of OS/2 Warp Server. Meeting is 7:00pm to 9:00pm. Q&A session is 6:30pm to 7:00pm. Location: Mountain Preserve Reception Center, 1431 East Dunlap, Phoenix.

- 26** Board meeting and magazine prep.

December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
	6	7	8	9	10	11
	12	13	14	15	16	17
	18	19	20	21	22	23
	24	25	26	27	28	29
	30	31				

January 1999

- 5** net.sig (Internet SIG). Meeting is 6:00pm to 8:00pm.

Coordinator Mike Briggs.

Location: KDC, 2999 N 44th St, 4th floor, Phoenix.

- 5** Magazine submission deadline

for February issue. Articles

should be sent to editor@possi.org. For other arrangements, call 602-585-5852.

- 12** General meeting; tentative: BizWiz and MoneyWiz. Meeting is 7:00pm to 9:00pm. Q&A session is 6:30pm to 7:00pm. Location: Mountain Preserve Reception Center, 1431 East Dunlap, Phoenix.

- 23** Board meeting and magazine prep.

January						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
						2
	3	4	5	6	7	8
	9	10	11	12	13	14
	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26
	27	28	29	30	31	

February 1999

- 2** net.sig (Internet SIG). Meeting is 6:00pm to 8:00pm.

Coordinator Mike Briggs.

Location: KDC, 2999 N 44th St, 4th floor, Phoenix.

- 5** Magazine submission deadline

for March issue. Articles should be sent to

editor@possi.org. For other arrangements, call 602-585-5852.

- 9** General meeting. Meeting is 7:00pm to 9:00pm. Q&A session is 6:30pm to 7:00pm. Location: Mountain Preserve Reception Center, 1431 East Dunlap, Phoenix.

- 27** Board meeting and magazine prep.

February						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
	6	7	8	9	10	11
	12	13	14	15	16	17
	18	19	20	21	22	23
	24	25	26	27	28	

March 1999

- 2** net.sig (Internet SIG). Meeting is 6:00pm to 8:00pm.

Coordinator Mike Briggs.

Location: KDC, 2999 N 44th St, 4th floor, Phoenix.

- 5** Magazine submission deadline

for April issue. Articles should be sent to

editor@possi.org. For other arrangements, call 602-585-5852.

- 9** General meeting. Meeting is 7:00pm to 9:00pm. Q&A session is 6:30pm to 7:00pm. Location: Mountain Preserve Reception Center, 1431 East Dunlap, Phoenix.

- 27** Board meeting and magazine prep.

March						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
	6	7	8	9	10	11
	12	13	14	15	16	17
	18	19	20	21	22	23
	24	25	26	27	28	29
	30	31				

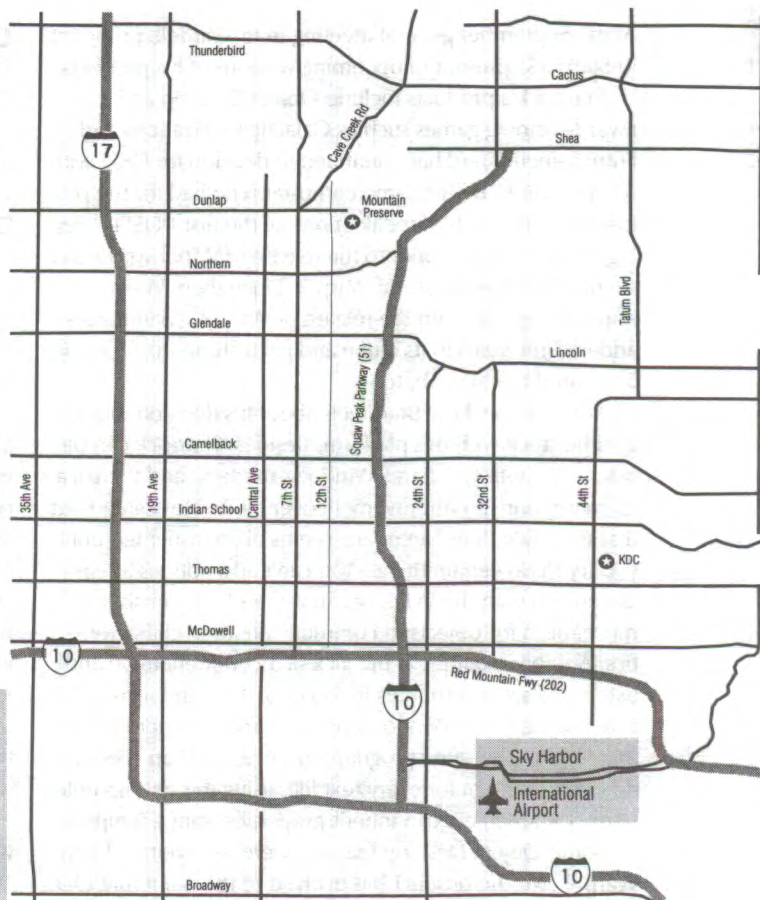
Meeting locations

Directions to meeting locations.

General meetings are held at the Mountain Preserve Reception Center, 1431 East Dunlap, Phoenix.

From the Black Canyon, exit at Dunlap and head east. From the Squaw Peak, exit at Northern. Go west to 12th Street, turn right, go north to Dunlap, turn right, and it's two blocks up on the right.

The "How OS/2 Works General Interest Group" and the Internet SIG (net.sig) meet at Knowledge Development Center, 2999 N 44th St, Suite 400. That's just north of Thomas, in the building with the green dome. Plenty of free parking is available in the garage behind the building. ☺



If the mailing label on the back cover says "sample" then this may be the only copy of *extended attributes* that you will ever receive. If you want to keep getting the magazine (and receive all the other benefits of membership), you must join! A 12 month membership in the USA is only \$30. (See the form for membership pricing in other areas.) Tear out the application, fill it in, and mail it with your membership fee today!

I made a little list

by Esther Schindler

In all likelihood, you're familiar with listservs. You write to an email "group" to which people subscribe, and the messages are automatically distributed to all the listserv members. A listserv usually focuses on a specific title, from issues of interest to OS/2-based ISPs (os2-isp@stat.com) to fans of particular a capella singing groups (netfobs@lists.best.com) to... well, perhaps you get the idea. Lists can have just a few individuals or thousands of subscribers.

Listservs can be open (any member can post), or moderated (one person approves each message before the system disseminates it). Often, the list also offers a "digest version"; you're sent one long message (containing the day's activity) instead of individual email messages.

The Phoenix OS/2 Society maintains two listservs for its members. The announce@possi.org list is a moderated list

used for bulletins ("Until Friday, Vendor X has a special price for members"). The list discussion@possi.org is where we discuss OS/2 topics, from technical support issues to thoughts about what the latest IBM action means. The announce list has only a few messages per month; the discussion list can have 40 or more messages per day.

The lists are meant for POSSI members only, but we haven't been very good about letting new members know how to sign up (often we don't have their email IDs) or excluding nonmembers. We don't try too hard, on the latter, because many lurkers eventually turn into members.

So we leave it to you to sign up manually. Visit www.possi.org/lists.htm (not visible from the home page!) and fill out the form. If you ever want to unsubscribe from the listserv, you can use the same form to do so. ☺

A Stardock is born

by Joel Frey

.last month

At the September general meeting Brad Wardell, president of Stardock, presented upcoming versions of his products.

Stardock's products include Object Desktop and award-winning games such as Galactic Civilizations and Entrepreneur. Brad has continued to develop for OS/2 with what seems to be the same enthusiasm he had for the platform when I saw him speak at one of the first POSSI meetings I attended, just prior to the release of Windows 95 and shortly after the release of Warp 3. Since then, Warp improved greatly with the release of Warp 4. (Windows 95 added three years to its name and got a "tune-up." It could have used a brake job, too.)

I don't know how Brad feels about his decision, but I'm glad he stuck with this platform. Besides, Stardock can be (and is) in both OS/2 and Windows markets, and there's a lot more room for improvement over there. He pointed out that the "Twindows" interface seems object-oriented until you try to do certain things. You can't add options as easily as you can with the WPS, because there's no consistent mechanism for objects to communicate their characteristics. Another example is the lack of a comprehensive and extensible set of attributes for objects. If, for instance, a file extension is ".txt", Windows opens it and all other files of that ilk with the same program. In OS/2, you can specify a different program for every text file, using the settings notebook. Or an object can inherit properties from a template.

Some Object Desktop features were incorporated into Warp 4, but the product has evolved to the point that OD 2.0 (the beta of which Brad showed throughout most of his presentation) in conjunction "with Fixpack 7, constitutes a major upgrade to the OS/2 client." Brad said that the placement of the close button in Warp 4 was influenced by its location in OD, when he pointed out that IBM should follow the convention established by an OS/2 independent software vendor (ISV) rather than Microsoft. When someone in the audience quipped, "I'm surprised they listened," Brad said IBM did a number of things based on ISV feedback, and they should be given credit for that. He mentioned that IBM is usually not given much credit for the OS/2 support it provides, and noted that each fixpack is a major endeavor providing substantial improvement beyond bug fixes.

One feature in OD 2.0 is called Object Netscan, which provides statistics on Internet usage, courtesy of OS/2's TCP/IP implementation—which collects the data but apparently does not use it in any known way. Brad said the closest thing to this on Windows is a \$50 program (which I won't name here) that doesn't work very well.

Other features of OD 2.0

Other features of OD 2.0 include:

- ☐ An enhanced implementation of virtual desktops, that allows you to arrange the desktop the way you want, and save the information so you don't have to rearrange the desktop every time you open it.
- ☐ Desktop "personalities" that change how OS/2 looks and feels, for those used to another environment, including Macintosh and Windows 95. Someone asked if it crashes when you switch to the Windows 95 personality. That question was mean and uncalled for. (The answer probably depends on whether you select the "Exact emulation" option.)

- ☐ A single button to roll up all the windows.

In response to a question about OD 2.0's stability versus prior versions, Brad noted that OD was frequently blamed for problems actually caused by misbehaving applications. (He cited one case where there was a whole news thread about OD causing sound failures in Doom.) According to Brad, one of the biggest problems was that OD did not work with Object Rexx; while it was technically Object Rexx's fault, Stardock changed OD to accommodate it. He said they took the same approach in other cases and "at this point I can't think of any applications that don't work with OD 2.0."

He was asked whether, since most OS/2 users know what they would like to see if IBM decided to release a "Warp 5," if Stardock would consider releasing a CD with the upgrade on it. According to Brad, the genesis of OD 2.0 was when IBM announced that they had no plans for a Warp 5 client; he said, "OS/2 needed to be enhanced feature-wise.... Here's an irony: Object Desktop 2.0 brings more features to OS/2 over 1.5 than Windows 98 brings to Windows 95. So adding OD 2.0 is like upgrading OS/2."

Although IBM has said so far that there will be no Warp 5 client, Brad said that based on what he's heard, there probably will be, primarily for Year 2000 enhancements. That version would include support for JFS (Journal File System) and a number of other features. (Stardock's October newsletter expands on that.)

Throughout his presentation, Brad demonstrated Stardock products, primarily OD 2.0. He also showed OS/2 Essentials and Entrepreneur, which is loosely based (or maybe not so loosely based) on the business practices of a certain large software company. You can get a better feel for them than I could provide here by visiting the Stardock Web site at www.stardock.com. ☺

The key to shortcuts

by Marilyn Pizzo



We all look for shortcuts to just about everything. Some are practical and others backfire. If we're lucky, the latter doesn't happen too often. I came across some shortcut tips that are neat to have handy. Naturally, sometimes you'll find other ways to accomplish the same thing but you can experiment with these shortcuts just for fun. Plus, some may have a practical use.

What if your mouse dies while you are still doing stuff? Do you know how to close a window without a mouse? Try pressing Alt+F4.

To change an object's settings, hold the Alt key and double-click the object. When you're using a DOS program, and you want to toggle from a window session to a full screen session, press Alt+Home.

To save a file, pressing Alt, F, S will usually work. If you lose track of what windows are open, find an empty spot on the Desktop and click both mouse buttons simultaneously—this will bring up the Window List.

When you need to get to Help really fast, simply press F1. Can't get much quicker than that.

To shut down OS/2 you can obviously click the **Shutdown OS/2** button, but there is another way. Find an empty spot on the Desktop and click the right mouse button. From there you can click on Shutdown and turn off your computer when the screen says it is safe.

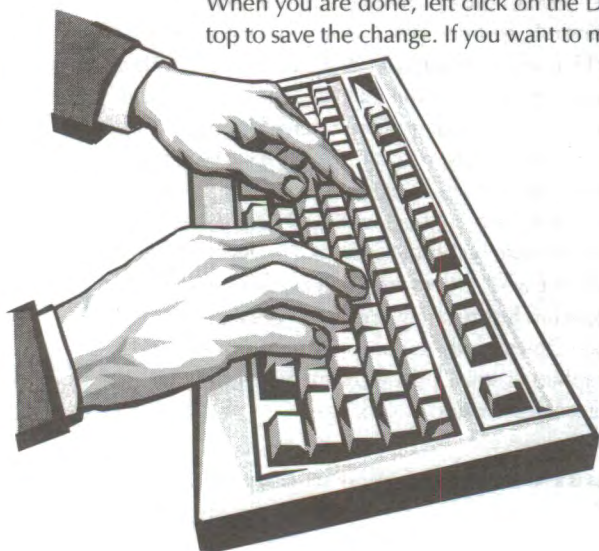
How do you rename an object? Try holding down the Alt key and left-clicking on the object. The name under the object will display in a white box with the flashing cursor. Simply type in the name you want. When you are done, left click on the Desktop to save the change. If you want to make

a shadow of an object, hold down the Shift and Ctrl keys, and drag the object to an empty space on the Desktop.

Did you know there is a nifty way to copy objects and move them within the same drive or to a different drive? Suppose you just downloaded several files from the Internet into a temporary file. Obviously, you won't leave them in the temporary file forever. Once you have established you want to save the files you can either copy them or move them to other locations. To move objects on the same drive, you just need to drag the object to where you want it.

To move an object to a floppy disk, hold the Ctrl key down while dragging the objects to the floppy drive object. Copying objects is a similar process: hold the Ctrl key and drag the object. To copy objects to a floppy disk, drag the object to the floppy drive object.

These are just a few little tips to give you an alternate way to accomplish some of the ordinary tasks. They may not be any easier than the way you do thing now, but it does give you something to think about. ☺



THE OS/2 SUPERSITE

<http://www.os2ss.com>

- Over 2 gigabytes of OS/2 shareware and freeware
- Mailing lists such as OS2USER and WarpCast
- Home of several popular OS/2 web sites such as OS/2 e-Zine!, EDM/2, OS/2 Connect, Loren Bandiera's OS/2 News and Rumors Page, and Timur Tabi's New OS/2 User page.
- The OS/2 Discussion Forum
- Online shareware registration and commercial software purchasing

Join the Supersite Members Club

Club members get special deals on commercial software and \$2.50 off every shareware application they register through BMT Micro. Members also get FTP access to the Supersite archive and space for their personal web page. See <http://www.os2ss.com/club/> for details.

WebSpice 1.0

by Bill Teags



review

Over the last year, my day job's scope has expanded; I am now the Webmaster of two business sites (www.apei.com, www.nbond.com) and one family site (<http://wteags.home.mindspring.com>). As the designated driver of these Web sites, I am always on the lookout for new software to make my job easier and more enjoyable—especially if it involves OS/2!

When I first received my review copy of WebSpice and started to remove the shrink wrap, I thought that I might have been handed the wrong copy. Then, I remembered the cryptic message delivered when I picked up the software, "Don't worry about the fact that this doesn't say anything about OS/2; it is in HTML." Even the Product Line Overview sent along with the software does not mention OS/2. It does show requirements for Windows, Macintosh, and Unix, and states "all products are multi-platform." I found it interesting to read the requirements for Unix were "Compatible with most varieties of Unix. System requirements vary." Hmmmm, this must mean they are all in HTML.

WebSpice 1.0 is produced by DeMorgan Industries Corp (www.webspice.com), and is part of a family of WebSpice products (WebSpice 1,000,000 Page Design Edition, WebSpice Bundle, and WebSpice Animations). The 1.0 version and the 1,000,000 version (could this be the version number?!) are identical in price at \$99 street; however, the 1,000,000 version has over 1,000,000 art images, while the 1.0 has only 1,000. (The upgraded version of 1.0, WebSpice Objects, released after I received the program, contains 2,000 images.)

How's it work?

In OS/2, using the Netscape 4.04 Communicator Browser, I opened the CD-ROM's WebSpice directory to find the file INDEX.HTML. Opening this file brings up the opening page

WebSpice 1.0
\$99.00

DeMorgan Industries Corporation
17 Duncanson Street
Stamford, CT 06905
Phone: 203-748-7420
Fax: 203-975-7544
www.webspice.com

for WebSpice. Seventeen directories are listed, showing such categories as Animated Objects and Icons, Arrows, Backgrounds, Bullets, Buttons, Counters, Credit Cards, Headers, Lines and Rules, Mailboxes, Navigation Buttons, Objects, Seamless Textures, Stock Photos, Textures, and

Themes.

The Navigation buttons present a large cross section of styles, from button-down business to trendy. They'd look nice on the bottom of most Web pages. My favorite button came with the up arrow and the word HOME in an attractive green, while the other buttons in the set came in silver with BACK, EMAIL, and NEXT as the text. All buttons came in

sets of four: Home, Back, Email and Next. (One exception was the cosmic purple button that said "Forward" instead of "Next" in a very 60's style text, reminding me of the college motto, "Always forward, never straight!")

Some of the stock photos are fairly nice, and the file sizes are download friendly. Usually, when I develop a Web site, I try to keep the images to less than 100K total on a page. It takes too long over a standard modem connection to download much more. Many people get frustrated and click away from your site if they have to wait more than 15 to 20 seconds for a page.

Copying the images from the HTML page to your hard drive is simple: right click over the image, then choose "Save Image As" to select in which directory you want to store the image.



The Themes area was a little disappointing, containing only two themes. Both are based upon a King Arthur theme. However, they do show you how to integrate all the images into a nice looking page. I would have preferred a few example pages of different themes, such as business, personal, and organization, demonstrating how to create specific pages for target audiences. It appears that this offering is not intended for experts or professionals, but more for those who are just getting into putting up a Web page to take advantage of the Web hosting space offered by most ISPs.

I like it, but...

Overall, this CD gives you almost all the basic images you would need to create an interesting Web site. Based upon the number of images found on the 1.0 CD-ROM, I am sure the 1,000,000 CD is fairly comprehensive.

My single largest complaint about WebSpice 1.0, aside from lacking any mentions of OS/2, is the price. With a little creative searching on the Internet, you can find and copy far more than what is offered here, for only the cost of your time. Additionally, you can sign up for a year of access to a site like ArtToday (www.arttoday.com) for only \$30. If this package were priced below \$30, I would feel much more comfortable recommending it. However, at \$99, it is too pricey for what it delivers. Even if you consider that DeMorgan has just recently upgraded WebSpice 1.0 to WebSpice Objects, which has the same price but adds more graphics, it still is pricey compared to what you can get if you search around a little. ☹

Bill Teags is a package engineer by day and an avid OS/2 user by day and night.

Web Organizer

by Brian Grawburg

review

Several years ago, OS/2 Magazine had a brief note about Web Organizer, a utility to sort and maintain Web sites. It was cheap enough, so I bought it. What a great application! Now, I can't imagine how to use the Netscape bookmarks when I have to use Netscape on a Windows 95 machine.

The best way to begin explaining Web Organizer is to show part of the startup page it creates for Netscape. This becomes the Home Page location that is automatically inserted in General Preferences/Start With. My full page has several more folders.

You start Web Organizer with a blank slate and create as many main folders as you want. Within these main folders you can then create multiple subfolders as shown in the next screen capture. You can create sub-subfolders within the subfolders, if you want.

To add specific URLs, you connect to the Web site. Then drag-and-drop the site: right click on a blank spot in the Web Page, and drag it to Web Organizer.

I usually start Web Organizer before I start Netscape, so I can easily drop a new site into WO. When you log off and close WO it warns you the site page has changed and asks if you want to save it—which you do, of course.

The bottom figure shows the URLs I've created in the Team Sites subfolder. I sorted them alphabetically and retained the site names obtained from the site, but I could easily change the site name with Alt+left-mouse or Shift+F9. Since some site names are very long, or difficult to decipher two months later, it's convenient to be able to rename it to something more meaningful.

Individual sites, or folders, can be moved at any time. You may have initially created a folder simply named OS/2. Later, when you've got ten site entries, you'll probably want to create a sub-folder within OS/2 and move some of the entries. Just a simple drag-and-drop does it.

Web Organizer \$19.95

ONG Software
sales@ongsw.com
www.ongsw.com

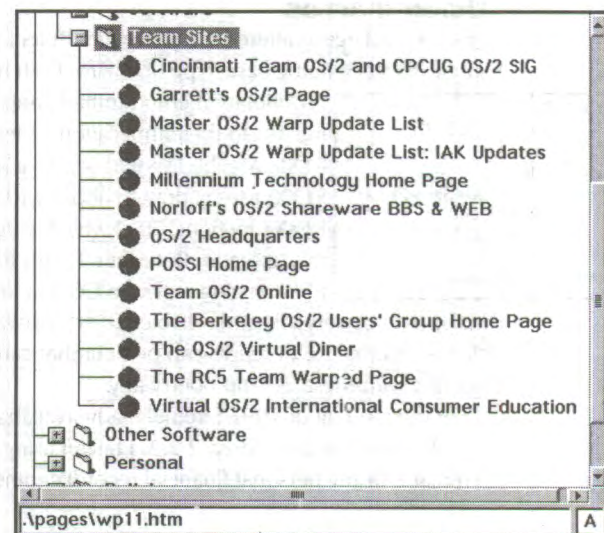
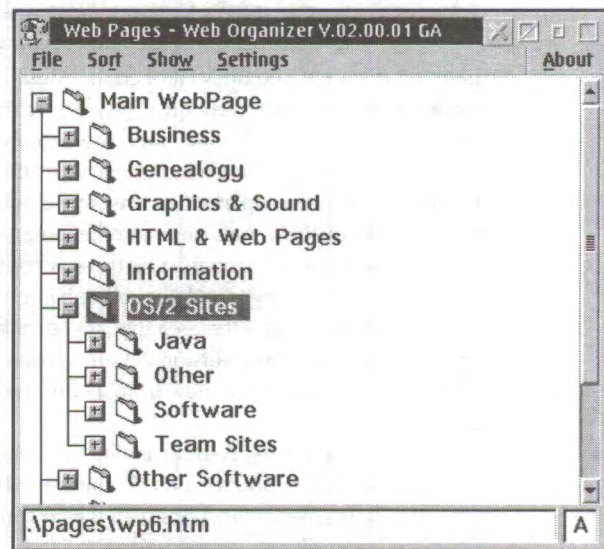
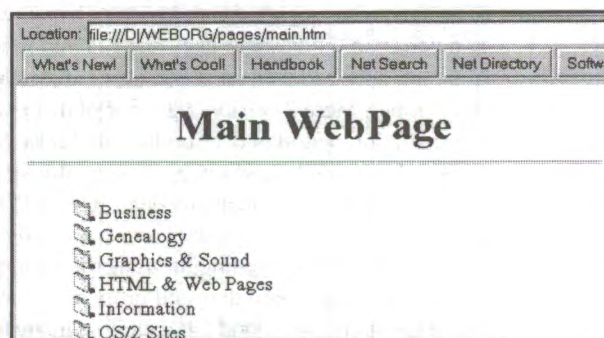
Available through BMT Micro

Web Organizer is shareware and can be ordered from the author's home page (www.ongsw.com) or at BMT Micro for \$19.95. Like so much of the OS/2 shareware available, it won't dazzle you with all kinds of bells and whistles; it's just a really practical application that makes using your

system easier and faster to use.

I'm currently using Netscape 2.02, so I haven't tried WO on the newest version. I cannot image why it won't work just as well in both versions. ☹

Brian Grawburg is LAN Administrator for a furniture accessories importer/manufacturer. He can be reached at grawburg@bbnp.com.



Mesa 2 2.2: A full-fledged 3D spreadsheet

by Bill Morrow

review

I first became acquainted with Mesa 2 when it was shipped as a demo on the Voyager DeScribe CD. At the time, I was quite unimpressed with what it could (and mostly couldn't) do. Happily, Mesa 2 version 2.2 is not of that era. After a long gestation period under Sundial's umbrella, Mesa 2 has emerged as a full fledged OS/2, 3D spreadsheet program.

Mesa 2 2.2 uses so many recognizable OS/2 basic features that any experienced OS/2 user will feel right at home with it, such as when editing, or using the right mouse button for a pop-up menu, drag and drop, or cut and paste. The developers did a good job getting so many functions and utilities into the application without making Mesa 2 top heavy or bloated. As elsewhere in OS/2, there are several ways to accomplish a task. Plus, Mesa 2 is very stable.

The de facto standard spreadsheet functions are all there, or at least all the ones I looked for. Mesa 2 uses either the Lotus/Quattro Pro form (@SUM()) or the Excel form (SUM()), so your personal habits are accepted.

Most of my work with spreadsheets is for SOHO use: building forms and templates that are copied and filled out every month. Business runs on record keeping, and templates do wonders for standardizing those records. I create macros to automate my templates, to keep information the same throughout. This is the area that has seen the greatest improvement from Mesa version 2.1x to version 2.2 and which has changed it—for me—from a curiosity into a useful tool.

One reason that I rejected the earlier versions of Mesa 2 was the lack of a method to control print-outs. The new version contains macro functions with which you can build automated control over your printing.

Using macros

One of the largest differences between different brands of spreadsheets is in the basic type of macro. Each has its own

Mesa 2 2.2
\$129.00 (upgrade \$39.00)

Sundial Systems
909 Electric Avenue, Ste 404
Seal Beach CA 90740
Phone: 562-596-5121
Fax: 562-596-7825
www.sundialsystems.com

proprietary method to build and apply macros to their applications. Mesa 2 uses REXX. Maybe I should say it's a subset of REXX; Mesa adopted about 140 of the REXX functions, 50 of which were added in this upgrade. But Mesa 2 does use the REXX engine native to OS/2, and this helps

make macros very fast and reliable. The documentation claims external REXX scripts can be built that can control/interact with Mesa 2. I did not try any.

In the last half of 1997 Sundial made available a public "PreRelease" (beta) of Mesa 2 2.2. I began using it with a template for my personal financial recordkeeping, while

still keeping in mind that it was a "beta" version of the application.

This personal record keeping workbook is not a new template but an ongoing revision that has been growing for the last 18 years, starting with Visicalc. It tracks several bank accounts, charge accounts, and 30 categories of my income/spending. At the end of the year, or whenever I feel like it, I can tell how much I've spent on computers, software, or any other category. I also use this program to write my checks and reconcile my accounts. I have written 15 macros to do this as consistently as possible. While writing a check, for instance, I enter the date, cost, account drawn on (by number), to whom, and any message for the memo field on the check. I place a blank check in the "envelope tray" of the printer and activate the "check macro," and my check is printed with the written out amount (thirty two 00/100 dollars) in 22 pt, Ribbon 131 font... and so on. The beta version of Mesa 2 2.2 has handled this job for me for the last nine months flawlessly.

I perform other tasks by macros, too. I use one at the beginning of the month to accumulate data from the previous month's workbook, open a copy of the template, and enter the accumulated data, thus creating the new workbook. A macro saves the file on two hard disk partitions so there is less chance of losing it. And a macro prints out a hard copy of the main worksheet, set "to fit" on one sheet of paper. I keep this in a loose leaf binder as my permanent record. I have also created a tool bar that is populated with icons that represent these macros so their activation is only a mouse click away.

Support quality

Mesa 2 2.2, in beta, has been around for about a year. It has been used by countless people, myself included. I was not looking for bugs but one bit me in the final code. This was on Friday afternoon and I got Sundial's technical support address from the help product information box and sent an email to them. I didn't expect an answer until Monday or Tuesday.

To my surprise, on Saturday morning I had a request from Sundial to send the workbook in which I was having the problem. Before the weekend was over I had a reply that the bug had been found. I had not given them any hint that I was doing a review. I wish that more technical support departments would come close to this turnaround time.

You may not be familiar with REXX or quite know how to write a macro for Mesa 2. No problem; a script recorder lets you perform the task, and captures the information

about the functions you used. It records it as a macro by cut and paste. If you have used REXX or built macros in other spreadsheet programs, I recommend that you start your macros this way and then fine tune them after you examine the "work flow" as recorded. Have fun and be productive!

I found Mesa 2 very capable for the kind of work that I do. I haven't even investigated many of its functions and features. I will leave it to others to describe its adaptability to tasks like building graphs, analyzing the stock market, or using database features. You will find a description of how to get the most out of Mesa 2, on line, in the "help" area; it is quite extensive. If you like OS/2 and you have use for a spreadsheet, I recommend that you take a look at Mesa 2 2.2. You can download a working version, with restricted size from www.sundialsystems.com/mesa.

Bill Morrow can be reached at wmorrow@flash.net.

Spreadsheet comparisons

In December 1997, I did a head to head comparison of the Mesa 2 Prerelease, the OS/2 beta of Lotus 1-2-3, Quattro 5 DOS (five years old), and Office 97's Microsoft Excel. Because two of the programs were in beta, I was only interested in the functionality of each program for my own use, and my ability to advise my clients.

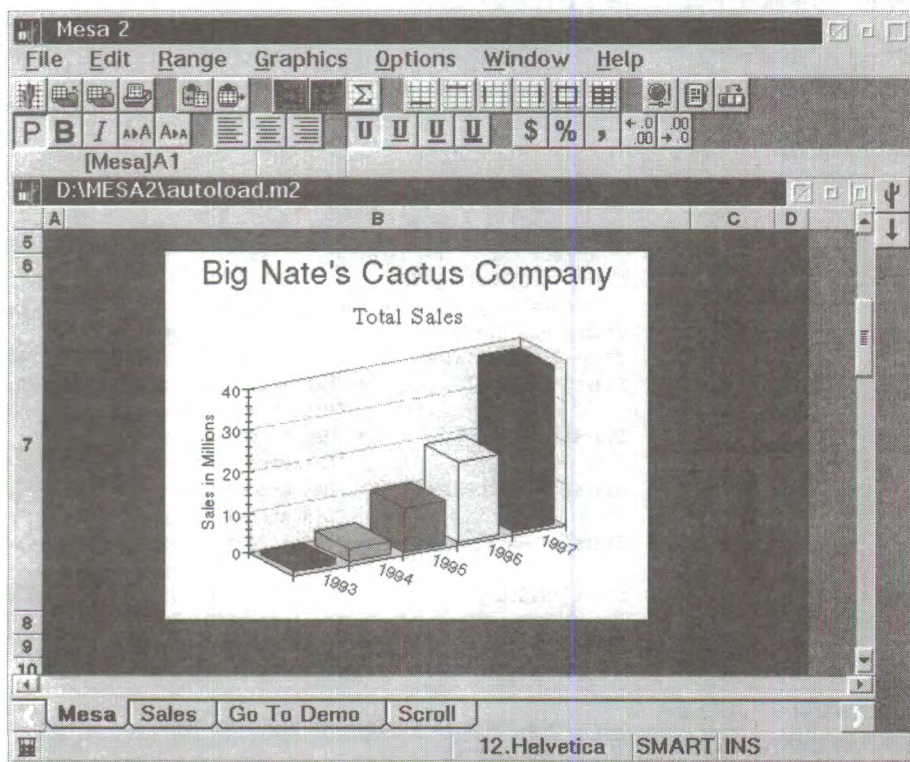
It took a very short time to eliminate Lotus 1-2-3, because I did not like the "feel" of it, among other things; it seemed bloated. I carried on the comparison using Excel, Mesa, and Quattro Pro. I eventually eliminated Excel because I did not endorse the platform that was necessary to run it; however, I thought it was a reasonable program. Quattro Pro remained, because it was a commercially available program and an old standby that had proven itself.

By attrition this left only Mesa 2 to be evaluated for future use. It was still in beta, so I

would not commit any production worksheets to it. My personal financial records, I thought, would represent much of the type of work I do, and I'd gain some experience with the software.

I imported my templates from Quattro Pro and rebuilt the macros so they were much the same functionally as in Quattro Pro. It only took about a month until I decided that I liked Mesa 2 over Quattro Pro, so I stopped keeping a parallel set of records. On September 1, 1998, Mesa 2 was released. I found very little difference between the beta and the released version.

One problem in doing a head to head spreadsheet comparison is that the macros are not convertible, so they must be created for each spreadsheet engine that you compare. The ease of construction is automatically part of any evaluation.



Professor Twiddle's College of Object Rexx Knowledge

by John J. Urbaniak

Hello. I am Professor Twiddle. I would like to teach you more about Object Rexx.

Previously, I introduced the Array Class (*extended attributes*, July, 1998), and the Queue Class (*extended attributes*, October, 1998). In this article, I'll talk about the Directory Class.

As a reminder, please make sure you have made Object Rexx your default REXX (run the SWITCHRX command from an OS/2 prompt).

Also, make sure you have created a "Twiddle" folder on your Desktop, in which you have made shadows of the OS/2 System Editor (from Programs—Utilities) and PMREXX.EXE (from \OS2). You can create the CMD files with the System Editor, and run them by dropping them on the PMREXX.EXE shadow.

The Directory Class

In our last articles, we stated that the Array Class and the Queue Class are well suited to objects which have some kind of "sequentialness."

The Directory Class is well suited to objects which can be identified, or referred to, by some unique INDEX.

Examples of such objects are:

- ☐ People identified by their Social Security Numbers.
- ☐ Students identified by their Student ID.
- ☐ Inventory Parts identified by a Part Number.
- ☐ Computer screen headings and messages identified by English words or phrases, and translated into words or phrases of other languages at run time.

With the Directory Class, we create complex data for objects, then generate a meaningful index for the object. We store the object in a Directory and use square brackets to specify the index for the object.

Later on, when we wish to retrieve or modify the data, we can obtain the Directory entry simply by referring to its index.

There is no implied ordering of the entries in a Directory.

Important built-in methods for the Directory Class are:

- ☐ **directory[xxx]** refers to the Directory indexed by xxx. Note square brackets.

- ☐ **directory[xxx] = yyy** Store the data yyy in the directory indexed by xxx.

- ☐ **directory~xxx** Same as directory[xxx] above, but is not case-sensitive. xxx is a literal string here, not a variable.



- ☐ **ITEMS** returns the number of items in the directory.
 - ☐ **HASINDEX(xxx)** Note the round brackets. Returns 1 or 0 if directory has an index xxx. This is case-sensitive.
 - ☐ **NEW** creates a new Directory object and returns its pointer.
 - ☐ **do ind over directory** executes a loop over the entire Directory, setting ind to each successive index.
- Use the OS/2 System Editor to type in program in Listing 1. Save it as "Direct.Cmd" in your Twiddle folder, and exit the Editor. Then drag the icon on the PMREXX.EXE icon to run the program.

Discussion of the Directory class

The Directory class is well suited to objects which have data plus some easily identifiable index which can be used to access the data. Countless examples of such objects abound in our daily lives and in data processing experiences.

Not only can we store data in directories, we can also store executable statements and execute them later with the INTERPRET statement. The Distance Calculation above illustrates this.

Did you notice that we did not have to pre-define how many elements are in our directories? Object Rexx takes care of that for us. We can add new entries to our directories any time we want.

The Directory class is very powerful and important. We will see much more of it in later sessions. ☺

Listing 1: The Directory class

```
/* Direct.Cmd - the Directory class */
Stars = .directory-NEW
/* Make sure you use semi-colons ( ; ) as shown in */
/* the example below. If you do not, the program */
/* will crash later. */
Stars['SIRIUS']      = "Magnitude=-1.47; " ||,
                      "Distance=9; Type='A1' "
Stars['CANOPUS']     = "Magnitude=-0.71; " ||,
                      "Distance=300; Type='F0' "
Stars['ALPHA CENTAURI'] = "Magnitude= 0.27; " ||,
                      "Distance=4; Type='G0' "
Stars['VEGA']         = "Magnitude= 0.03; " ||,
                      "Distance=26; Type='A0' "
Stars['RIGEL']        = "Magnitude= 0.08; " ||,
                      "Distance=850; Type='B8' "
Stars['AMENIAR 7']    = "Magnitude=21.50; " ||,
                      "Distance='Unknown';Type='M5' "

say
say 'Note there is no special ordering to' ||,
'directory entries.'
```



```

do obj over Stars
  say LEFT(obj,15) Stars[obj]
end
say
say 'The index entries are case-sensitive.'
say 'The following entries will not be found.'
say Stars['Sirius']
say Stars['Vega']
say
say 'However, these entries WILL be found.'
say Stars['SIRIUS']
say Stars['VEGA']
say
say 'Here is an example of the special "Twiddle" notation:'
say ' It is not case-sensitive.'
say Stars-SIRIUS
say Stars-VeGa
say
say 'The built-in function HASINDEX returns 1 or 0 if the'
say ' directory has a specified index or not.'
say 'SIRIUS' Stars-HASINDEX('SIRIUS')
say 'Sirius' Stars-HASINDEX('Sirius')
say
say 'Directory entries can be any objects, even executable',
  'statements'
say 'This is one of the advantages of Object REXX over Java:'
say ' Java has no INTERPRET statement.'
say 'Therefore, you can not store or build statements which can'
say ' be executed at run time.'
/* Distance Calculation */
numStars = 0
totDistance = 0
do ind over Stars
  Distance = 'Bad Value'
  exec_stmt = Stars[ind]
  INTERPRET exec_stmt
  if (DATATYPE(Distance) = 'NUM') then do
    numStars = numStars + 1
    totDistance = totDistance + Distance
  end
end
say
say 'There are 'numStars' stars with known distances.'
say 'The average distance is: ' totDistance/numStars ,
  'light years'
say
say 'Directories are helpful for Internationalization.'
say
headings = .directory-NEW
language = 'X'
do forever
  say "Please enter 'E' - English, 'D' - Deutsch"
  say "Type E or D, then press Enter"
  parse upper pull language
  if (language = 'E' | language = 'D') then LEAVE
end
if (language = 'E') then do
  headings['STAR'] = 'Star'
  headings['MAGNITUDE'] = 'Magnitude'
  headings['DISTANCE'] = 'Distance'
  headings['TYPE'] = 'Spectral Type'
end
if (language = 'D') then do
  headings['STAR'] = 'Stern'
  headings['MAGNITUDE'] = 'Groesse'
  headings['DISTANCE'] = 'Entfernung'
  headings['TYPE'] = 'Typ des Spektrum'

```

```

end
do ind over Stars
  exec_stmt = Stars[ind]
  INTERPRET exec_stmt
  say headings-Star ind
  say ' headings-Magnitude Magnitude
  say ' headings['DISTANCE'] Distance
  say ' headings['TYPE'] Type
end
say
say 'Directories can hold any kind of objects.'
say 'Here is an example of a directory whose objects'
say ' themselves are arrays and other directories.'
Stooges = .array-OF('Moe','Larry','Curly')
Hobbits = .array-OF('Frodo','Sam','Merry','Pippin')
myBigDirectory = .directory-NEW
myBigDirectory['STOOGES'] = Stooges
myBigDirectory['HOBBITS'] = Hobbits
myBigDirectory['STARS'] = Stars
myBigDirectory-Headings = headings
say
say 'myBigDirectory' myBigDirectory ,
  'with the following' myBigDirectory-ITEMS 'items:'
say
do dirObj over myBigDirectory
  say dirObj myBigDirectory[dirObj] 'with ' ||,
    myBigDirectory[dirObj]-ITEMS 'items'
  do ind over myBigDirectory[dirObj]
    say ' ind
  end
end
return

```

POP IN THE CD



Software Distribution

OS/2 Fixpaks on CD-ROM

Stop downloading multi-megabyte Fixpak files and get the latest Warp Fixpaks on CD-ROM for only \$15. Subsequent CDs cost you only \$8! Pop in the CD, and run the installation program to install the Fixpak.

Exclusive Deal for POSSI Members

The JP Software CD Suite for only \$71.99 - includes 4OS2, 4DOS, 4NT, and versions of Take Command for OS/2, Windows 3.1, and Windows NT.

Visit us today at

<http://www.bmtmicro.com>
800-414-4268 / 910-350-2937 FAX

New and improved

compiled by Esther Schindler

random bits

For quite a while, the only Java applications released seemed to be Java development tools. Despite the Java hype, it wasn't particularly clear that a mere mortal could actually get any real use from Java, at least from more than a trivial applet.

This month's batch of new applications includes some native OS/2 programs, but it also begins a trend for Java applications that might be worth serious attention.

We're not sure, of course, because these are just product announcements. If you'd like to give any of these applications a try, and share your experience with the membership—not all of the vendors explicitly mention that they tested with OS/2—contact the reviews editor (reviews@possi.org). He'll arrange for you to get a full copy of the software, and explain how the review process works.

PackageWizard

PackageWizard 1.0 is the first truly multiplatform installation utility aimed at professional developers that build applications for Windows 95/98, Windows NT, OS/2, and Java.

From a single installation package, you can install your application on all these platforms and even create icons on the desktop for launching your applications.

PackageWizard is shareware. The only limitation of the evaluation version is that the installation program can be executed only from the PackageWizard installation directory. Among its features are:

- ☐ Create desktop folders and program icons.
- ☐ Create program icons in the startup folder.
- ☐ Generate installation executables for OS/2, Windows 95/98/NT, and a single class file for Java installations.
- ☐ A single Java installation class can install programs for all supported platforms.
- ☐ The Java installation class can create desktop folders and program icons for OS/2 and Windows platforms.
- ☐ Can modify the system configuration file (CONFIG.SYS).
- ☐ Installation files are compressed in a single executable (or Java class) file suitable for Internet download and CD-ROM installations.

For more information write to support@maccasoft.com or visit www.maccasoft.com.

Emerald Mail

Emerald Mail 1.0 is a 100% Java, multithreaded, Internet email client, designed from the ground up for maximum configurability and ease of use. Emerald Mail features include multiple account support, nested folders, mail fil-

tering, and MIME compliance.

Emerald Mail supports both POP3 and SMTP servers, and is a MIME compliant mail client. This means that attachments are handled transparently. Emerald Mail also includes a powerful address manager. The address manager allows you to classify contacts in multiple address books instead of dropping them all into one massive list.

- ☐ 100% Java application: runs on every operating system supporting the Java Runtime Environment version 1.1.4 or greater.
- ☐ Support SMTP and POP3 mail servers.
- ☐ MIME compliant. Supports both uuencode and base64 encoding systems.
- ☐ Supports firewall and proxy servers with the SOCKS V4 protocol.
- ☐ Multiple account support.
- ☐ Multiple nested folders support.
- ☐ Multiple address books.
- ☐ Multiple identity (email alias) support.
- ☐ Incoming message filtering helps you organize messages and get rid of unwanted spam mail.

For more information, write to support@maccasoft.com or visit www.maccasoft.com.

Motion-JPEG (SRMJPEG)

SRMJPEG (Movie-JPEG, MJPEG) is a freeware/shareware DLL which adds OS/2's support for Movie-JPEG coded AVIs. This package is its second version. It comes with easier installation script as well as the following features:

- ☐ BGR3 (24-bit) and R565 (16-bit) color depth
- ☐ high improved performance for shareware version.
- ☐ Motion-JPEG Encoder und Decoder included.

For more information, visit www.physik.uni-augsburg.de/~serge/mjpeg.

Lotus Domino Connectors

Lotus announced new Domino Connectors for leading transaction processing systems, to allow native integration of transactional data in Domino applications and greatly enhance organizations' collaborative infrastructures. The Domino Connectors for transaction processing systems complement the previously announced Domino Connectors for RDBMS systems and enterprise requirement planning (ERP) systems.

Lotus also announced enhanced integration products that allow developers to build solutions with the Connectors. Lotus Enterprise Integrator (LEI), previously known as Lotus NotesPump, is an enterprise-scale data transfer product that manages high volume data exchange and synchro-

nization, and load balancing of transfer operations across Domino Connector sources. LEI complements the live enterprise data connectivity of Domino Enterprise Connection Services and provides a complete environment for developers to exploit the Domino Connectors for high-value application integration.

Using the new Domino Connectors, customers can develop new applications in Domino, including interactive self-service, supply chain management, and customer relationship management applications that access an extensive array of enterprise systems. These capabilities also serve to extend the value of more than 18,000 Lotus Business Partners who have built their business on these types of applications with Domino.

LEI, formerly known as Lotus NotesPump, is a high-performance, enterprise-scale data distribution server that transfers data among a broad number of relational database, transaction processing and ERP systems. LEI includes an extensive set of enterprise integration capabilities, including forms based transfer activities, metaconnectors, connector options for high speed transfer and load balancing, and LotusScript and Java programmability tools.

The transaction processing system connectors will work on all systems supported by both Domino and transaction processing system clients. System requirements for LEI include OS/2 Warp 3.0 or 4.0, or Windows NT 4.0, or HP-UX 11.0, or Sun Solaris 2.5.1, IBM AIX 4.1.4. Pricing and availability will be announced at a later date.

Lotus Domino is Web application server software that provides an integrated electronic business messaging and application development environment. Domino provides the platform for developers and administrators to easily create secure, scalable, customized business applications that leverage the power and ubiquity of the Internet while streamlining business processes like E-mail and information management. Domino is available on Microsoft Windows NT for Intel and Alpha, Microsoft Windows 95, Sun Solaris SPARC and Intel Edition, IBM AIX, HP-UX, IBM OS/2, IBM OS/400, and IBM OS/390.

ObjectStore PSE Pro for Java 2.0

Object Design, Inc., a leading provider of

enterprise and embedded data management solutions, announced that ObjectStore PSE Pro for Java is the first 100% Pure Java database management system (DBMS) to be certified fully compatible with Sun Microsystems' PersonalJava application environment.

The PersonalJava environment is Sun's application environment for network-connectable applications running on personal consumer devices for home, office, and mobile use. Applications currently under development for PersonalJava include hand-held computers, set-top boxes, game consoles, mobile hand-held devices, and smart phones. ObjectStore PSE Pro for Java is the ideal database solution for developers creating these applications because it requires less memory and offers superior performance and time-to-market when compared to traditional database solutions.

ObjectStore PSE Pro for Java is a full-featured, 100% Pure Java DBMS. It runs anywhere Java does, including on the PersonalJava environment and Windows CE, and it deploys quickly and automatically with no administration required. ObjectStore PSE Pro for Java has a 300-kilo-byte footprint and its pure object architecture reduces database and application memory requirements by 25 percent or more, when compared to relational databases. No database uses less memory, which reduces the cost of producing PersonalJava-based devices such as personal digital assistants, set-top boxes, consumer devices, etc.

ObjectStore PSE Pro for Java 2.0 with PersonalJava support is available now from the Object Design Web site at www.object-design.com. The Developer Edition costs \$245 per developer. An end-user license costs \$95 per user with quantity discounts and royalty pricing available. ObjectStore PSE Pro runs on any Java-supported platform including Windows, Unix, OS/2, Macintosh, and others.

NetBeans IDE

KL Group Inc., a leading provider of

GUI components and Java development tools, announced that NetBeans' Integrated Development Environment (IDE) for Java now includes JClass Chart Lite from KL Group.

Together, NetBeans and KL Group bring a full complement of powerful programming features to Java software developers. Both NetBeans Developer 2.0 and JClass Chart Lite work with Swing, taking full advantage of its robust, cross-platform features. As a JavaBean, JClass Chart Lite is fully integrated with the NetBeans Form Editor. NetBeans Developer 2.0 also provides complete support for KL Group's suite of JClass 100% Pure Java components for visual development of Java applications and applets.

NetBeans Developer 2.0, written entirely in the Java language and based on Sun's Java Foundation Classes framework, is a full-featured, object-oriented visual programming environment enabling flexible development on any platform which supports JDK 1.1.x, including Win NT/95/98, Linux, Solaris, OS/2, HP-UX, and others.

"The integration of these two complex products is seamless, proving that adding complex and complicated functionality with JavaBeans is an easy task," said Roman Stanek, Founder/CEO of NetBeans Inc. "What NetBeans has done with JClass Chart Lite any software developer can do with their own JavaBeans and a copy of a NetBeans IDE. Our vision for our NetBeans IDEs is to create a JavaBean-compliant tool that can act as bedrock for additional functionality. This alliance with KL Group is the first step in offering powerful JavaBean development tools."

NetBeans combines the cross-platform compatibility of Java with the ease-of-use of



a visual RAD programming environment. NetBeans' internal structure is easily configurable and extensible, and integration with other tools is seamless.

NetBeans will ship in two versions: Developer and Enterprise. NetBeans Developer was created for the single developer working on a single platform. NetBeans Enterprise was designed as a multi-user, multi-platform product. Users can fully exploit the object-oriented nature of the IDE, design distributed applications based on RMI/CORBA, share virtual filesystems, debug remotely, and access source control systems. NetBeans Enterprise will include KL Group's JClass Chart Lite and JClass Table Lite components.

JClass Chart Lite is a powerful 100% Pure Java data-aware Bean, enabling NetBeans users access to complex charting capabilities, via easy-to-use custom property editors. This permanently enabled version has been enhanced for visual development in IDEs and is fully compatible with the advanced feature set of the industry-leading JClass Chart. JClass Chart supports many popular types of business & scientific charts including line, bar, pie, stacked bar, plot, and is loaded with interactive features for making professional graphs and charts. Users can create charts with multiple axes and multiple data views, where advanced control of appearance, text, and axes is robust and easy. JClass Chart works with all popular IDE's, supports the latest JDK releases, and uses a flexible data source that can access files, JDBC, sockets and more. For more information visit www.klg.com/jclass/chart.

NetBeans users can visit the JClass Web site at www.klg.com/jclass for information and tips on using JClass components with NetBeans IDE. For more information on NetBeans Developer, visit the NetBeans Web site at www.netbeans.com.

The full release is scheduled for October, 1998. The retail price will be \$149, and will be free for non-commercial and educational use. Pricing and availability of NetBeans Enterprise will be announced in late September, 1998.

PMMail/2 2.0

SouthSoft, Inc. released PMMail/2 2.0. This new release offers more than 65 enhancements to the product. Notable new features include LDAP support, vCard support, PGP5 support, new ICSL tags, and HTML ripping support. A complete list of new features can be found at www.southsoft.com/suppmos2hist.html.

The application can be downloaded from www.southsoft.com.

Thumbnail Catalogue Maker

Thumbnail Catalogue Maker creates thumbnail image files from full size JPEG image files and build a HTML catalogue file for use on the Web, your computer, or CDRs. If you have a digital camera or scanner then Thumbnail Catalogue Maker is for you.

- ☐ Creates JPEG thumbnail image files from Full size JPEG image files.
- ☐ Builds HTML catalogue files from Thumbnail images
- ☐ Builds index HTML file of all catalogue HTML files.
- ☐ Use built in Styles to create your HTML files.
- ☐ Recurse directories building thumbnails in all subdirectories.
- ☐ Directory ordering.
- ☐ Command line version of program for easy automation.
- ☐ Year 2000 Ready.

Registration: \$40. Available at BMT Micro.

Mesa 2 2.2

Sundial Systems announced Version 2.2 of Mesa 2, the best spreadsheet available on OS/2.

"The theme of this new version is customizability and ease of use," noted J. Daniel Kulp, architect for Version 2.2. "Now, the toolbars, menus, and shortcut keys can be customized with over 300 distinct commands. The on-screen views of each sheet may be zoomed to virtually any size and the 'always missing from Mesa' title locking feature has finally been added."

In addition, over 30 new formula functions and 50 new scripting functions have been added. Numerous other improve-

ments have been made throughout the product and even spreadsheet capacity has been increased to allow up to over 700 layers, 18,000 columns, and 99,000 rows per workbook!

"This is a landmark release that's so full of new features and functions that we really should have called it 3.0," remarked Randall Flint, president of Sundial Systems. "Not only have we added the things people have been asking us for, but we've also added innovative new features like our SmartFormulas and custom OS/2 palettes."

The SmartFormula feature not only allows you to type a word like "Total" and have the correct value appear under columns of nearby values, it also lets you define your own such "smart words" for your own formulas and use them at will.

The custom OS/2 palettes include four new Workplace Shell palette objects that can be used to set line styles, line widths, background patterns, and graph markers in the same way that the standard OS/2 color and font palettes can be used.

Also particularly significant in Version 2.2 is the ability of Mesa 2 to import or export Excel 97 workbooks (up to 7MB in size)—a true rarity among non-Windows products. This greatly increases the versatility of Mesa 2 in mixed-platform environments.

In conjunction with the announcement, the suggested list price of Mesa 2 is being reduced to \$129 (from \$179) making it an incredible value for a spreadsheet of such power and flexibility. And for the next 98 days (approximately until the end of 1998), Sundial and many of its resellers will be offering Version 2.2 at the promotional price of just \$98. Most license holders can upgrade for just \$39 with proof-of-license.

Further details on Mesa 2 Version 2.2, as well as promotional and upgrade offers, are available on the Sundial Systems Web site, www.sundialsystems.com. ☺



Perfect Niche Software, Inc.
6962 E. 1st Ave. #103, Scottsdale, AZ 85251
Sales: 800-947-7155 Fax: 602-949-1707
Email: sales@perfectniche.com
<http://www.perfectniche.com>

The labeling program for OS/2

LÔÔK!

Increase your productivity with these two great products from AVIAR!

1. "Object REXX by Example®"

The **book** that teaches you
Object REXX the easiest
way possible - by example.

By: Gwen L. Veneskey
Will Trosky
John J. Urbaniak

Check out

<http://www.oops-web.com/orxbyex/>
for a Table of Contents

2. "V Trex"

Speech-activated, natural-language
queries into your DB2/2 Databases.

"Information at your fingertips?"
Been there, done that. Feh!

INFORMATION. . . at your *COMMAND!*

Check out

<http://www.oops-web.com/vtrex/>
for some screen shots

Available from INDELIBLE BLUE or direct from AVIAR

Web: <http://www.indelible-blue.com/>
Web: <http://www.oops-web.com>

Telephone: 1 800-776-8284
Telephone: 1 412-488-9730

Aviar *software that soars!*

219 Fingal Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15211

Join the Phoenix OS/2 Society

We're the largest international organization supporting OS/2 users, OS/2 software developers, and OS/2 friends. (Not even IBM can say that — they don't support OS/2 users!) When you become a member of the Society, you get:

- ☐ A subscription to our award-winning magazine, *extended attributes*
- ☐ Access to discounts and special offers to members
- ☐ Free access to our email listserv
- ☐ A chance to take part in various Society events
- ☐ The knowledge that you're not alone in a sea of Windows users

You can join by filling in and mailing the card in the center of the magazine. Or you can join online by going to <http://www.possi.org/mem.htm> and following the links to BMT.

Don't miss out — join today!

Phoenix OS/2 Society, Inc
5515 N 7th St, Ste 5-133
Phoenix, AZ 85014-2585

Phoenix
OS/2
Society



***** MXD ADC
37F 03/1999